

Hi my name is Stephanie Jackson and I am the parent of two diagnosed dyslexic students in Brookfield, CT. We have three children, and while I believe that our oldest is also dyslexic, our request to have him tested was denied because his test scores are "too high." This is evidence of the ignorance surrounding dyslexia. Other tests show a significant deficit in reading, but that has been ignored by the district.

It is paramount that our dyslexic children throughout Connecticut receive a proactive and an empirically based approach to reading remediation. To withhold these services is really a threat to those children whose future can be so adversely affected by not having the proper help. Statistically, one in five people are dyslexic. Here are some candid responses to an article about dyslexia that appeared in the New York Times. Please take a moment to read some of these opinions.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/13/opinion/the-reality-of-dyslexia-millions-struggle.html?_r=0

Here are some excerpts: "Nearly two million students in our public schools struggle with reading because of dyslexia. Learning to read with accuracy, fluency and comprehension greatly increases the likelihood of high school graduation, enrollment in college and career success. Dyslexia presents real obstacles to these students."

"Nobody lives in his world, where his dyslexic demons play with his mind, making a trip to the movies stressful and doing homework an exercise in "how much more of this can I endure?"

"It is imperative that we keep these learning advantages in mind, and provide students with a flexible and multisensory education that highlights both their strengths and weaknesses."

"The article states that an estimated 15 percent of the population is dyslexic. That translates to more than 45 million Americans. It makes you wonder how many scientists, lawyers, doctors, engineers and writers we have lost because they failed early on in school and no one knew how to tap into their talents and teach them how to read."

Because of the current financial circumstances that our school district is facing in Brookfield, the money, of course has become an issue. If we need to cut back, there are other areas to examine rather than taking it from our children. And finally, please keep in mind that providing special services for our struggling readers isn't "special," it is the law.

<http://www.smartkidswithld.org/guide-to-action/your-childs-rights/darien-ct-a-case-study-in-parent-power>

Please support the dyslexia legislation as it has been placed in RHB 5562, Section 1, An Act Concerning Special Education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stephanie Jackson